

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01

ACDA-05 CU-02 SAM-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6658

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 648

GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC

SUBJECT: EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETING: CSCE

1. NOEL DORR, IRISH POLITICAL DIRECTOR, BRIEFED US APRIL 10 ON APRIL

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8/9 DISCUSSIONS OF EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS. (OTHER TOPICS SEPTELS)

THERE WAS, HE SAID, A QUICK REVIEW OF CSCE PROGRESS. THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE BREZHNEV LETTER NOW SEEMS OUT OF DATE, "TO PUT IT MILDLY," IN ITS PROPOSAL OF JUNE 30 FOR CSCE WRAP-UP. CONCLUSION OF THE CSCE SO EARLY WOULD HAVE REQUIRED MUCH FASTER MOVEMENT FROM THE SOVIETS THAN THEY HAVE BEEN WILLING TO CONSIDER.

2. CBMS: THE SOVIETS HAVE SHOWN SOME NEW FLEXIBILITY, BUT THEIR INTEREST IN "VOLUNTARY" NOTIFICATIONS IS STILL CAUSING CONFUSION. THE EC COUNTRIES WANT TO GET CLARIFICATION BUT SEE THEMSELVES IN A "CATCH 22" SITUATION: IN ORDER TO FIND OUT WHAT THE SOVIETS HAVE IN MIND, THE EUROPEANS ARE BEING ASKED TO ACCEPT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL AS A BASIS OF NEGOTIATION. FACED WITH THIS PROBLEM, THE EC IS INCLINED TO MOVE CAUTIOUSLY.

3. BASKET II: THE QUESTIONS OF THE MFN CLAUSE AND RECIPROCITY ARE STILL OUTSTANDING. THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS CONSIDERED THE EC POSITIONS BRIEFLY BUT TOOK NO DECISIONS OTHER THAN TO REMAIN COMMITTED TO THEIR PROPOSALS.

4. BASKET III: THE EC ALSO CONSIDERS IT IMPORTANT THAT PROGRESS BE MADE ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES, BUT THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS HAD NO DETAILED DISCUSSION ON THE SUBJECT.

5. FOLLOW-UP: THE PARTICIPANTS SPENT A LITTLE MORE TIME ON THIS AND DECIDED THAT THE DANISH PROPOSAL FOR AN EVALUATION OF CSCE RESULTS IN 1977 SHOULD REMAIN ON THE TABLE. THERE WAS SOME FEELING THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO GO FOR A FULL THREE-YEAR INTERVAL BEFORE ANY ASSESSMENT, AS HAD BEEN ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY THE DANES, BUT PARTICIPANTS DECIDED THAT THE 1977 DATE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO STAND. MOST LEANED TOWARD SETTING A DATE IN LATE 1977. THE EC MOOD IS MUCH AGAINST MAKING ANY COMMITMENT TO PERIODIC MEETINGS UNTIL THERE HAS BEEN A CHANCE TO SEE HOW EVENTS PROCEED BETWEEN NOW AND 1977.

5. THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS HAD SOME INTEREST IN PRESS REPORTS OF A POSSIBLE NATO SUMMIT ON CSCE, BUT THIS WAS NOT SEEN AS A TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION IN THE EC FRAMEWORK.

6. ACCORDING TO DORR, THE ITALIANS WILL PROVIDE A SIMILAR BRIEF-
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DUBLIN00648
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750125-0649
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750464/aaaacgmr.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETING: CSCE
TAGS: PFOR, EI, EEC, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006